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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,280	02/17/2004	Masaki Nakamura	56232.98	2036

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San Francisco, CA 94111

EXAMINER

FAISON, VERONICA F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1755

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sacripante et al (US Patent 6,025,412).

Sacripante et al teach an ink composition comprising particles of an emulsifiable dye-polymer resin dispersed in a liquid vehicle, wherein the emulsifiable dye-polymer resin includes a dye chemically attached to the polymer resin. The polymer resin comprises a base chain, such as polyester having attached thereto hydrophilic groups such as alkali sulfonated groups from emulsifying the resin in water. The reference further teaches that the dye may be attached with the base chain itself or attached to the base chain as a side chain component (abstract, col. 3 line 64-col. 4 line 35). The dye used in the ink composition may be any suitable commercially available dye, however the preferred dyes include anionic, cationic, reactive and alcohol- and oil-soluble dyes (col. 6 line 46+). The reference remains silent to the color cyan, however it would have been obvious that one of ordinary skill would know that among the dyes listed that a cyan color can be produced having the properties set forth in claim 1. The polymer resin comprises from about 20 to 50 mole percent dye residue by weight of the polymer resin (col. 8 lines 62-67). The colored particulates having dye bonded to a

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polymer resin may have a number average particle size of from about 2 nm to about 500 nm (col. 9 lines 29-36). Sacripante et al fails to specifically exemplify the use of cyan colored polymer particles as claimed by applicant. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the specific cyan colored polymer particles as claimed by applicant as Sacripante et al also discloses the use of cyan colorants but shows no example incorporating them in the polymer particles.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurabayshi (US Patent 6,790,878).

Kurabayshi teaches ink composition comprising either pigment having a cationic group, or a pigment and a pigment dispersant having a cationic group and a resin encapsulating a coloring material and further teaches that the ink composition may be used in an ink set with at least one other ink wherein the color of the ink may be selected from yellow, magenta, cyan, black, red, green and blue (col. 4 lines 44-65 and col. 6 lines 6-24). The reference further teaches that the average particle diameter of the resin encapsulating the coloring material is within a range of from 0.01 to 2.0 μm (col. 7 lines 63-67 and col. 11 lines 17-20). Kurabayshi fails to specifically exemplify the use of cyan colored polymer particles as claimed by applicant. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the specific cyan colored polymer particles as claimed by applicant as Kurabayshi also discloses the use of cyan colorants but shows no example incorporating them in the polymer particles.

Response to Arguments

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., core/shell structure) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Veronica F. Faison whose telephone number is 571-272-1366. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays 8 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VFF
1-23-06


J.A. LORENZO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER